

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4703

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG, IS, US, PLO

1. SUMMARY: KHADDAM IN BEIRUT PRESS CONFERENCE CHARACTERIZED LEBANESE CRISIS AS PART OF PLAN AIMED AT DISTRACTING ARABS WITH MARGINAL ISSUES TO PREVENT THEM FROM CONCENTRATING THEIR OPPOSITION TO SINAI II. AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST TERMED KISSINGER PROPOSAL TO HOLD INFORMAL MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE DEVICE INTENDED TO UNDERMINE GENEVA AND UN RES. 338. END SUMMARY.

2. DOMESTIC

SEPT. 26 PRESS REPORTED STATEMENT BY FONMIN KHADDAM IN BEIRUT PRESS CONFERENCE THAT LEBANESE CRISIS PART OF FAR-REACHING PLAN TO DISTRACT ARABS WITH MARGINAL ISSUES IN ORDER TO PREVENT THEM FROM CONCENTRATING OPPOSITION TO SINAI II.

DEFMIN TLAS SPOKE AT WAR COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT SEPT. 25 AND STATED THAT "AMERICAN-ZIONIST IMPERIALISM HAD SEPARATED WEAKEST LINK IN ARAB CHAIN -- EGYPT -- BECAUSE KISSINGER FOUND EGYPTIAN POLITICAL COMMAND RESPONSIVE TO HIS WICKED UNCLASSIFIED

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WHEREAS HE FOUND IN SYRIA A LION -- ASAD -- WHO WOULD NOT BARGAIN ON PRINCIPLES."

CHIEF EDITOR OF KUWAITI AL-QABAS PUBLISHED HIS "IMPRESSIONS" OF ASAD'S VIEWS FOLLOWING RECENT TALK WITH SYRIAN LEADER. EDITOR NOTED THAT NO ONE IN SYRIA WANTED DISCORD WITH EGYPT, AND DISCORD WOULD CEASE IF EGYPT ABROGATED AGREEMENT. HE SAID ASAD HAD POINTED OUT THAT ALL WARS IN HISTORY HAVE ENDED WITH SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS, BUT RECENT SINAI AGREEMENT IS DETRIMENT TO ARAB CAUSE. HE ADDED THAT WAR NECESSITATES LENGTHY PREPARATIONS, AND CONCLUDED SYRIANS FEEL ARABS SHOULD PREPARE FOR WAR BECAUSE ISRAEL HAS NOT LEARNED SUFFICIENT LESSON FROM OCTOBER WAR AND POLITICAL WAR HAS NOT LED TO ANTICIPATED RESULTS.

DEMONSTRATIONS WERE HELD SEPT. 25 IN HOMS, QAMISHLE, ABU KAMAL AND DRAKISH. FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED SEPT 27 FOR HAMA AND LATAKIA.

BAATH PARTY CONTINUES TO RECEIVE CABLES OF SUPPORT FROM SYRIAN AND NON-SYRIAN ORGANIZATIONS.

3. FOREIGN

BOTH DAMASCUS PAPERS REPORTED THAT WASHINGTON INTENDS TO SPEED UP ARMS SHIPMENTS REQUESTED BY ISRAEL "TO ENABLE ISRAEL TO CONTINUE ITS EXPANSIONIST POLICY. LIST INCLUDES F-15 PLANES AND LANCE ROCKETS, LATTER DESCRIBED AS HAVING HUNDRED-MILE RANGE AND SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN MONTH.

KUWAITI CABINET REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED "ANXIETY" OVER PLANNED U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL.

4. COMMENTARY

PLA GENERAL STAFF DOCUMENT ON SINAI AGREEMENT REPORTED IN SEPT. 25 AL-BAATH CALLED FOR ACCELERATING SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN UNITY AND INITIATING PLO DIALOGUE WITH JORDAN.

COLUMNIST IN SEPT. 25 AL-BAATH ACCUSED U.S. OF PURCHASING SINAI II WITH THREE BILLION DOLLARS IN AID TO ISRAEL AND PERMISSION FOR ISRAEL TO PURCHASE FOUR BILLION DOLLARS IN WEAPONS.

SANA DIRECTOR SABIR FALHUT IN SEPT. 26 AL-BAATH COLUMN ON ASAD-SADAT CABLES PRINTED PREVIOUS DAY CHARGED THAT THEY PROVED SADAT TOOK PART IN "AMERICAN-ISRAELI UNCLASSIFIED

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POLITICAL GAME."

AL-BAATH COLUMNIST SAID THAT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN UNITY WOULD ENABLE ARABS TO ESTABLISH WIDE FRONT CAPABLE OF FOILING AGREEMENT.

AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST, IN FIRST COMMENT ON SECRETARY'S UNGA ME PROPOSALS, STATED THAT IDEA OF INFORMAL MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE AIMED AT UNDERMINING GENEVA AND UN

RES. 338 AND REPLACING THEM WITH AMERICAN
UMBRELLA.

AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST CHARGED THAT SHIPMENT OF AMERICAN
ARMS TO ISRAEL UNDER PRETEXT OF PROTECTING AGREEMENT MEANS
THAT ARMS WILL BE USED AGAINST THOSE WHO OPPOSE AGREEMENT,
ESPECIALLY SYRIA AND PALESTINIANS.
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